

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sputtering target transport box, comprising:

a plate-shaped, disc-shaped sputtering target made of a metal of ceramic material and having first and second opposite planar faces and an outer annular peripheral edge;

an inner sputtering target retention frame defining a void ~~the~~ of a size of matching a size and shape of said disc-shaped sputtering target, said sputtering target being positioned in said void within said retention frame such that said retention frame extends continuously about, directly contacts and supports said outer annular peripheral edge, ~~and of said sputtering target said retention frame~~ in a manner preventing movement of said sputtering target relative to said retention frame;

a plastic inner box having a planar lower cushion plate and [an] a planar upper cushion plate, said retention frame and said sputtering target being positioned within said inner box sandwiched between said planar lower and upper cushion plates such that movement of said retention frame and sputtering target relative to said inner box is prevented [,] and such that said planar lower and upper cushion plates extend completely across and cover said void and directly contact, cushion and buffer said first and second opposite planar faces of said sputtering target [,] and such that said

plate-shaped sputtering target is entirely encapsulated, ~~and~~ cushioned, and  
in direct engagement with [by] said retention frame and planar lower and  
upper cushion plates;

a separate outer box formed of aluminum or wood and having an outer frame, a  
bottom plate, and a cover providing an inner size that is greater than said  
inner box, the inner box charged with the sputtering target is insertable in  
a horizontal position within the outer box for transport and is  
independently removable from the outer box, said lower cushion plate  
being firmly held in position on said bottom plate via said inner box and  
said upper cushion plate being firmly held in position via contact with said  
cover so that, during transport of the transport box, a damaging force  
exerted on the transport box is buffered by said lower and upper cushion  
plates supported by said bottom plate and said cover plate, respectively,  
and is prevented from being exerted on said first and second opposite  
faces and said peripheral side edge of said sputtering target contained  
within the transport box; and

stationary supports for mechanical transport extend from the bottom plate of said  
outer box and wheels for man-powered transport are mounted directly to  
and integral with said bottom plate adjacent only a rear edge of said  
bottom plate and not adjacent an opposite front edge of said bottom plate,  
the height of the supports is greater than the height that each of the wheels  
extends from the bottom plate of the outer box such that the outer box is

supported on said wheels only when the outer box is inclined on a floor face.

Claims 2-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 1, wherein a handle is mounted on a side face of the outer box opposite the wheels and at a location above said bottom plate and supports, and wherein the transport box is inclined during transport when utilizing the handle such that the transport box is supported on the wheels and the supports do not interfere with the floor face.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 11, wherein a resin or wood material is affixed to respective faces of the periphery, corners and supports of the outer box to cushion impact with the floor face of a building.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 12, wherein a conductive thin film is affixed to an outer surface of the outer box to prevent electrification.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 13, wherein a through-type hold is provided on the inner box adjacent an upper rim of said inner box to simplify removal of said inner box from said outer box.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 14, wherein a cushion material is provided between the outer box and inner box.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 15, further comprising a joint removably fixing the cover of the outer box to the outer frame of the outer box.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 1, wherein a resin or wood material is affixed to respective faces of the periphery, corners and supports of the outer box to cushion impact with the floor face of a building.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 17, wherein a conductive thin film is affixed to an outer surface of the outer box to prevent electrification.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 18, wherein a through-type hold is provided on the inner box adjacent an upper rim of said inner box to simplify removal of said inner box from said outer box.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 19, wherein a cushion material is provided between the outer box and inner box.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 20, further comprising a joint removably fixing the cover of the outer box to the outer frame of the outer box.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 1, wherein a conductive thin film is affixed to an outer surface of the outer box to prevent electrification.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 22, wherein a through-type hold is provided on the inner box adjacent an upper rim of said inner box to simplify removal of said inner box from said outer box.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 23, wherein a cushion material is provided between the outer box and inner box.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 24, further comprising a joint removably fixing the cover of the outer box to the outer frame of the outer box.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 1, wherein a through-type hold is provided on the inner box adjacent an upper rim of said inner box to simplify removal of said inner box from said outer box.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 26, wherein a cushion material is provided between the outer box and inner box.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 1, wherein a cushion material is provided between the outer box and inner box.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A sputtering target transport box according to claim 1, further comprising a joint removably fixing the cover of the outer box to the outer frame of the outer box.

Claim 30 (canceled).

Claim 31 (new): A sputtering target transport box for a plate-shaped sputtering target, the plate-shaped sputtering target having first and second opposite faces and a peripheral side edge face extending therebetween, comprising:

a retention frame having a void of a size permitting the sputtering target to be inserted into said void within said retention frame such that horizontal movement of the sputtering target relative to said retention frame is prevented;

a plastic inner box having a lower cushion plate, an upper cushion plate, and an inner size such that said retention frame is receivable in a horizontal position within said inner box sandwiched between said lower and upper

cushion plates and such that the sputtering target is entirely encapsulated and cushioned by said retention frame and lower and upper cushion plates; an outer box formed of aluminum or wood and having a frame, a bottom plate, and a cover plate and having an inner size such that said inner box charged with the sputtering target and lower and upper cushion plates is insertable into said outer box, wherein said lower cushion plate is firmly held in position on said bottom plate via said inner box and said upper cushion pate is firmly held in position via contact with said cover plate so that, during transport of the transport box, a damaging force exerted on the transport box is buffered by said lower and upper cushion plates supported by said bottom plate and said cover plate, respectively, and is not exerted on the opposite faces and peripheral side edge face of the sputtering target contained within the transport box; and

stationary supporting blocks enabling forklift transport of the transport box and two wheels enabling man-powered transport of the transport box being attached to an underside face of said bottom plate, said two wheels being attached to two rear corner portions, respectively, of said bottom plate, a height of said supporting blocks measured from said underside face of said bottom plate being larger than that of said two wheels measured in a like manner, and a difference between said height of said supporting blocks and that of said two wheels being such that said supporting blocks support the transport box when the transport box is stood vertically and said two wheels support the transport box when the transport box is positioned in a

tilted position thereby enabling man-powered transport of the transport box in said tilted position.